

21st March 1921]

*Famine work in Bellary district.*

440 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) whether the Government have called for information promised in reply to question No. 96 put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated the 16th February 1921;

(b) whether the Government will now furnish the required information; and  
(c) the average daily wages earned week by week by the coolies on the test works since started.

A.—(a) & (b) The Collector has been requested to furnish the information required and his report is awaited.

(c) The Government have no information.

*Famine in Bellary.*

441 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) if the Government have perused the leader in the *New India* of the 9th February 1921 under the heading 'Is there famine in Bellary';

(b) if, and when, famine has been declared to exist in the Bellary district, and, if it has not been, the reasons for the delay in declaring it to be so affected; and

(c) whether any work, and if so what work, has been started in or near Kolar village, Bellary district (Bellary taluk), for the relief of the unemployed in the neighbourhood.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Orders were issued on 7th March 1921 declaring as famine areas the eastern part of the Bellary taluk, the north-western part of the Alur taluk, the western part of the Adōni taluk and the Siruguppa taluk.

(c) No work has been started at Kolar. A test work was started in the second week of February at Sanavasapuram, near Kolar.

*Grant of forest lands to private firms in Bellary district.*

442 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(a) whether entire forests, or disafforested lands, or large extents thereof, have been handed over in the Bellary district to private firms;

(b) if so, what reserves were so handed over, to whom and on what terms; and

(c) whether the Government satisfied themselves, before handing over the areas in question, that the interests of the ryots living in the neighbourhood were not prejudicially affected in the matter of grazing facilities for their cattle, or fuel for their domestic use.

A.—(a) & (b) No forest or disafforested lands have been handed over to any firm. But the reserves noted below have been leased since 1914 to Mr. Howes, Government grass contractor, Bellary, who harvests and supplies hay to the Military department. The present lease terminates in September 1921 and the rental is Rs. 350 per annum—

Mincheri reserve.	Ubbalagondi reserve.
Bellary East reserve.	extension (No. 3).
West reserve.	Marutla reserve.

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- (c) When the first lease was granted the needs of the Military department had clearly special claims to consideration. The Government understand that only one complaint on the subject of the reservations in favour of that department has since been received by the Chief Conservator. This related to an area not leased to Mr. Howes but in direct charge of the Military department, and in consultation with that department the area in question was thrown open to grazing. The Government are not aware of any complaints regarding fuel.

*Rayadrug railway station.*

443 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(a) if it is a fact that there is only a small goods shed at the Rayadrug railway station and that there is no accommodation for the passengers who have to wait for the afternoon train to Bellary; and

(b) if the Government cannot instruct the railway authorities to provide suitable accommodation for the passengers of the first, second and third classes.

A.—(a) The Government are not aware of the facts but presume from the form of the question that they are within the knowledge of the Member himself.

(b) It is not within the power of this Government to issue instructions in the sense suggested, but they will bring the question to the notice of the Railway Administration concerned.

*Establishment list of the Revenue Department.*

444 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(a) whether the establishment list of the Revenue Department is available for sale to the public; and

(b) whether the Government will make it available to the members of the Legislative Council on requisition.

A.—No consolidated establishment list for the whole Presidency is published. The printed establishment lists of each district are not available for sale to the public. They will be made available in the Chief Secretariat Library for the perusal of Honourable Members.

*Cochin Harbour scheme.*

445 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member to state—

(a) the progress made in regard to the Cochin Harbour scheme;

(b) the probable contribution of the British Government towards the above scheme;

(c) the arrangements made for the supply of materials required for its execution; and

(d) whether tenders were invited for the supply of such materials, and, if so, with what result.

A.—There is as yet no finally approved scheme for the improvement of the Cochin Harbour. As a preliminary it will be necessary to dredge a channel through the bar and the arrangements for the financing of this work are still under consideration.